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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
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COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1- 4	2
	A. Mandate	1	2
	B. Scope of the note	2- 3	2
	C. Possible action by the SBSTA	4	2
II.	BACKGROUND	5- 12	2
III.	QUESTIONS NEEDING CONSIDERATION	13	4

Annex

Recommendation VI/7 of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity 5

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at the second part of its thirteenth session, took note of the decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) relating to forest biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly coral reefs, and their links to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).[1] The SBSTA agreed to consider this matter in more detail at its fourteenth session. It invited Parties to submit their views on the issues identified in the discussion note[2] prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD to the UNFCCC secretariat no later than 1 March 2001, to be included in a miscellaneous document (see FCCC/SBSTA/2000/14, para. 60).

B. Scope of the note

2. This note presents information in response to the above mandate. The information is intended to assist Parties in considering how to proceed further with issues relating to cooperation between the CBD and the UNFCCC.

3. The note provides some background information based on the discussion note by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as presented to the SBSTA at the second part of its thirteenth session, and a note by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as presented to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD at its sixth session.[3] On the basis of these documents, and taking into account views submitted by Parties on the discussion note contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.3, the present note identifies questions needing consideration by the SBSTA.

C. Possible action by the SBSTA

4. The SBSTA may wish to take note of and provide guidance on issues identified in this paper. Parties may wish to come prepared with suggestions on cooperation between the CBD and the UNFCCC.

II. BACKGROUND

5. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at its fifth meeting, considered the interactions between climate change and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in a number of thematic and cross-cutting areas, including coral bleaching, forest biodiversity and incentive measures, and urged strengthened cooperation with the UNFCCC.[4] Specifically, the SBSTTA was requested to consider the impact of climatic

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[1] Decisions V/3, V/4, V/15 and V/21, also available on the CBD web site at http://www.biodiv.org

[2] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11, annex I.

[3] UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11.

[4] See footnote 1.

change on forest biological diversity[5] and to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.[6] In both cases the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity called for this work to be carried out in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), where appropriate and feasible.

6. The Executive Secretary of the CBD made available a discussion note to the SBSTA, at the second part of its thirteenth session on the interaction between climate change and biological diversity.[7] The SBSTA took note of the information and invited Parties to submit views on the discussion note to the secretariat by 1 March 2001 (FCCC/SBSTA/2000/14, para. 60). The secretariat received four such submissions from Parties; these are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.3.

7. The SBSTTA of the CBD addressed the issue of biological diversity and climate change at its sixth meeting. To assist the SBSTTA in its task, the Executive Secretary of the CBD prepared a note,[8] providing a progress report on activities, including collaboration between the CBD, the UNFCCC and the IPCC, and identifying relevant areas of scientific guidance. It also included the discussion note to the UNFCCC referred to in paragraph 6 above (see also attached annex), and a brief review of the relationship between climate change and biological diversity.[9]

8. At the same meeting, the SBSTTA of the CBD, agreed, among other conclusions, to undertake a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. For this purpose, also at the same meeting, the SBSTTA established an ad hoc technical expert group. This would be part of a wider assessment of the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change. The pilot assessment will address the following issues:

(a) The impacts of climate change on biological diversity and the impacts of biodiversity loss on climate change;

(b) The potential impact on biological diversity of mitigation measures that may be carried out under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and identification of potential mitigation measures that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(c) The potential for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to contribute to climate adaptation measures.

9. The SBSTTA invited the UNFCCC and other relevant organizations to contribute to this assessment. It further invited the IPCC to contribute by preparing a technical paper and by identifying experts (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3, paras. 5-9).[10]

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5 Decision V/4, para. 11.

6 Decision V/4, para. 18.

7 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11, annex I.

8 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11.

9 UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11, annex II.

10 Recommendation VI/7.

10. The SBSTTA further requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD, in consultation with the secretariat of the UNFCCC, to explore the formation of a joint liaison group between the bureau members of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD, and their respective secretariats. The purpose of the liaison group would be to enhance coordination between the two conventions including exchange of relevant information, development of a joint work plan to address the interlinkages between climate change and biological diversity, and the organization of a joint workshop to further cooperation between the two conventions. (For the complete text of the SBSTTA recommendation VI.7, please see the annex below.)[11]

11. The Chairman of the SBSTA and the secretariat coordinator responsible for the SBSTA attended the sixth meeting of the SBSTTA. Informal discussions were held with the Executive Secretary of the CBD and the Chairman of the SBSTTA. An additional informal meeting is planned on the margins of the fourteenth session of the SBSTA.

12. In response to the request by the SBSTTA, as referred to in paragraph 9 above, the IPCC, at its seventeenth session, agreed to prepare a scoping paper[12] in time for the fourteenth session of the SBSTA. A final decision on scope, outline and selection of authors will be taken at the eighteenth session of the IPCC.

III. QUESTIONS NEEDING CONSIDERATION

13. The SBSTA may wish to consider whether it should:

(a) Contribute to the pilot assessment, to be undertaken by an ad hoc technical expert group of the SBSTTA, on integrating biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and, if so, in which manner;

(b) Join with the SBSTTA and endorse the request to the IPCC for a technical paper and, if so, give the IPCC suggestions relating to the contents of this paper;

(c) Provide the secretariat with guidance relating to the formation of a joint liaison group between the bureau members of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD and their respective secretariats;

(d) Consider cooperation with other relevant organizations in this context and, if so, what specific issues should be considered, and in which manner they should be dealt with.

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[11] Further information is available on the CBD web site at http://www.biodiv.org/cross-cutting/climate

[12] The IPCC secretariat has indicated that the scoping paper will be available at the fourteenth session of the SBSTA.

Annex[1]

RECOMMENDATION VI/7 OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Recalling decisions V/3, paragraphs 3, 5 and annex, V/4, paragraphs 11 and 16-20, V/15, paragraph 6, and V/21, paragraph 3, of the Conference of the Parties,

Emphasizing the urgent need to take prompt action to address climate change as a major cause of loss of biological diversity, which is already evident, in particular in coral bleaching, and its associated socio-economic consequences,

Also emphasizing that measures that may be taken to mitigate or adapt to climate change may also have important effects, positive or negative, on biological diversity,

Stressing the need for adaptation measures to ensure the long term integrity of ecosystems, species and ecological processes under conditions of climate change,

Emphasizing also the impact of biodiversity loss on climate change and the contribution that the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, inter alia, through avoided deforestation, could make to adapt to or mitigate climate change,

Stressing that overall emission reduction is the main and most important measure to address climate change,

Recognizing the existence of reliable scientific data that climate change is already impacting on the biological diversity of coral reefs,

1. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting that there is a need to take immediate actions under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the biological diversity of coral reefs and their associated socio-economic effects:

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[1] This annex has not been formally edited.

2. *Takes note* of the discussion of the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, contained in the discussion note by the Executive Secretary submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its sixth session and the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice at the second part of its thirteenth session, held in The Hague, from 13 to 24 November 2000 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11, annex I);

3. *Welcomes* the agreement of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice to consider this matter at its fourteenth session, scheduled for July 2001, and its invitation to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to submit their views on the issues identified;

4. *Promotes* on the basis of the ecosystem approach a wider assessment of the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, in order to develop more comprehensive scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, including:

(a) The impacts of climate change on biological diversity and the impacts of biodiversity loss on climate change;

(b) The potential impact on biological diversity of mitigation measures that may be carried out under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and identification of potential mitigation measures that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(c) The potential for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity to contribute to climate adaptation measures;

5. *Initiates*, as a first step in the wider assessment referred to in paragraph 4 above, a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and, for this purpose, establishes an ad hoc technical expert group in accordance with the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the terms of reference provided in the annex to the present recommendation, to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body at its seventh meeting;

6. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to contribute to this assessment process by preparing a technical paper and identifying experts;

7. *Invites* the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to incorporate the issues identified in paragraph 4 above, and to report on this matter at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant organizations to contribute to this work;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to explore the formation of a joint liaison group between the bureau members of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and their respective secretariats, for the purpose of enhancing coordination between the two conventions including exchange of relevant information, development of a joint work plan to address the interlinkages between climate change and biological diversity, and the organization of a joint workshop to further cooperation and collaborative action between the two conventions;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of these steps taken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to convey to them the urgency and importance of the matter, and to invite their continued collaboration, with a view to facilitating the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a background paper for the pilot assessment referred to in paragraph 4 above, drawing upon the material in his note on biological diversity and climate change prepared for the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11);

12. *Notes* the importance of coordination of policies and programmes relating to climate change and biological diversity at the national level.

ANNEX

PILOT ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Terms of reference of the ad hoc technical expert group established in paragraph 5 of recommendation VI/7

1. The ad hoc technical expert group should, on the basis of the ecosystem approach:

(a) Analyse possible adverse effects on biological diversity of measures that might be taken or are being considered under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol;

(b) Identify factors that influence biodiversity's capacity to mitigate climate change and contribute to adaptation and the likely effects of climate change on that capacity;

(c) Identify options for future work on climate change that also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

2. The ad hoc technical expert group should develop recommendations based upon a review of possible approaches and tools such as criteria and indicators, to facilitate application for scientific advice for the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of measures that might be taken under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

3. In carrying out these tasks, the ad hoc technical expert group should draw upon relevant documents prepared under the Convention on Biological Diversity (including decisions V/3, V/4, and V/6, and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11) and IPCC (including the third assessment review and the *Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry* (LULUCF)), as well as other available literature;

4. The ad hoc technical expert group should identify areas where further work is needed to improve scientific advice for the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change, including (i) further assessment, drawing upon existing knowledge; and (ii) further research; and should identify options for participation of the IPCC and UNFCCC in this further work;

5. The ad hoc technical expert group will comprise a regionally balanced group with expertise in the fields of biological diversity and climate change. The experts will be selected by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, drawing upon experts nominated by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scientists involved in the IPCC processes, and experts from indigenous and local communities;

6. The work of the ad hoc technical expert group should be initiated as soon as possible. A progress report should be submitted to SBSTTA at its seventh meeting, and the results of the ad hoc technical expert group's work will be completed by the time of the eighth meeting of SBSTTA and considered by SBSTTA at a meeting prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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